

**Listing of Claims:**

What I claim is:

1. (Original) A method of making a skin softening ointment, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) heating and mixing a humectant and a non-aqueous thickener under vacuum in a first vessel;
  - (b) introducing urea under vacuum into the mixture of step (a);
  - (c) heating and mixing the contents of step (b) under vacuum, at a temperature sufficient to dissolve the urea;
  - (d) heating and mixing a non-aqueous base and at least one emulsifier in a second vessel, whereby the non-aqueous base liquefies;
  - (e) drawing by vacuum the mixture from step (d) into the mixture in the first vessel;
  - (f) mixing, heating and homogenizing the contents of step (e) under vacuum;
  - (g) cooling, mixing and homogenizing the mixture of step (f) to a congealing temperature under vacuum;
  - (h) cooling the mixture of step (g);
  - (i) drawing by vacuum salicylic acid into the mixture of step (h);
  - (j) recirculating the mixture of step (i) under vacuum; and,
  - (k) cooling the mixture of step (j) under vacuum.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the humectant is selected from the group consisting of glycerol, propylene glycol, sorbitol and triacetin and mixtures thereof.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-aqueous base is selected from the group consisting of mineral oil, petrolatum and lanolin, grapeseed oil, propylene glycol, and beeswax and mixtures thereof.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the emulsifier is selected from the group consisting of acacia, oleic acid, stearic acid, cetearyl alcohol, cetyl alcohol, lanolin, mineral oil, anionic emulsifying wax, polyethoxylated castor oil, hydroxypropyl cellulose, diethanolamine, polyoxyethylene ether, monostearate glyceryl, lecithin, medium chain triglycerides, methyl cellulose, monoethanolamine, nonionic emulsifying wax, oleic acid, poloxamer, polyethoxylated castor oil, polyoxyethylene ethers, polyoxyethylene fatty acid esters, polyoxyethylene stearates, propylene glycol alldinate, sodium citrate, sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium phosphate monobasic, sorbitan fatty acid esters, stearic acid, triethanolamine, medium chain triglycerides and mixtures thereof.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the emulsifier is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters, polyoxyethylene

glyceryl, polyoxypropylene esters, polyoxyethylene-stearyl ether, polyoxyethylene-alkyl phenol and mixtures thereof.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-aqueous thickener is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyethylene oxide, carboxyvinyl polymers, acacia, tragacanth, synthetic and nonsynthetic gums and mixtures thereof.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the non-aqueous thickener is PEG-8.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of urea added is up to about 20% (w/w).

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the amount of urea added is about 10% (w/w).

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of salicylic acid is up to about 20% (w/w).

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the amount of salicylic acid is about 5% (w/w).

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the temperature of heating in step (d) is a range from about 63°C to about 67°C and the mixing is at a speed wherein a vortex is not formed.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the temperature of heating in step (a) is a range of about 80°C to about 84°C, the mixing is at a speed of about 18 rpm and the vacuum is at about -400 mbar.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the temperature of heating in step (c) is a range of about 80°C to about 84°C, the mixing is at a speed of about 36 rpm and the vacuum is at about -400 mbar.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the drawing under vacuum in step (e) is at about -200 mbar, the mixing is at a speed of about 36 rpm.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in mixing in step (f) is at a speed of about 36 rpm, the heating is a range from about 80°C to about 84°C, the vacuum is at about -400 mbar, the homogenizing is at a speed of 1700 RPM and the duration of the mixing, and heating is about 18 to about 22 minutes.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mixture in step (g) is cooled to a range of about 43°C to about 47°C, the mixing is at a speed of about 36 rpm, the

homogenizing is at a speed of about 1700 rpm, and the vacuum is at about -400 mbar.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mixture in step (h) is cooled to a range of about 29°C to about 40°C and the vacuum is at about -400 mbar.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the vacuum drawing in step (i) is under a vacuum of about -750 mbar and the mixing is at about 36 rpm.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the recirculation in step (j) is conducted for about 38 to about 42 minutes and the vacuum is at about -600 mbar.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mixing in step (k) is at a speed of about 36 rpm, the vacuum is at about -600 mbar and the mixture is cooled to a range of about 23°C to about 27°C.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of making a skin softening ointment comprising the following steps:

- (a) heating and mixing glycerol and PEG-8 under vacuum in a first vessel;
- (b) introducing urea under vacuum into the mixture of step (a);
- (c) heating and mixing the contents of step (b) under vacuum, at a temperature sufficient to dissolve the urea;
- (d) heating and mixing white petrolatum, polysorbate 80, PEG 40 sorbitan peroleate and polyoxyl 40 stearate in a second vessel whereby the white petrolatum liquefies;
- (e) drawing by vacuum the mixture from step (d) into the first mixture of the first vessel;
- (f) mixing, heating and homogenizing the contents of step (e) under vacuum;
- (g) cooling, mixing and homogenizing mixture of step (f) to a congealing temperature under vacuum;
- (h) cooling the mixture of step (g);
- (i) drawing by vacuum salicylic acid into mixture from step (h);
- (j) recirculating the mixture of step (i) under vacuum; and
- (k) cooling and mixing the mixture of step (j) under vacuum.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 wherein:

in step (a) the heating is at a temperature of about 80°C to about 84°C, the mixing is at a speed of about 18 rpm and the vacuum is at about -400 mbar;

in step (d) the heating is at a temperature of about 63°C to about 67°C and the mixing is at a speed such that a vortex is not formed;

in step (c) the heating is at a temperature of about 80°C to about 84°C, the mixing is at a speed of about 36 rpm and the vacuum is at about -400 mbar;

in step (e) the vacuum-drawing is at a vacuum of about -200 mbar, the mixing is at a speed of about 36 rpm;

in step (f) the mixing is at a speed of about 36 rpm, the heating is at a temperature of about 80°C to about 84°C, the vacuum is at about -400 mbar, the

homogenizing is at a speed of 17 RPM and the duration of the mixing and heating is about 18 to about 22 minutes;

in step (g) the cooling the mixture is cooled to a range of about 43°C to about 47°C, the mixing is at a speed of about 36 rpm, the homogenizing is at a speed of about 1700 rpm, and the vacuum is at about -400 mbar;

in step (h) the mixture is cooled to a range of about 29°C to about 40°C and the vacuum is at about -400 mbar;

in step (i) the vacuum is at about -750 mbar and the mixing is at about 36 rpm;

in step (j) the recirculating and mixing is conducted for about 38 to about 42 minutes and the vacuum is at about -600 mbar;

in step (k) the mixing is at a speed of about 36 rpm, the vacuum is at about -600 mbar and the mixture is cooled to a range of about 23°C to about 27°C.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 to provide a skin softener comprising

- a. about 49.35% white petrolatum;
- b. about 0.9% polysorbate 80;
- c. about 6.1% PEG-40 Sorbitan Peroleate;
- d. about 3.65% polyoxyl 40 stearate;
- e. about 11% glycerol;
- f. about 14% PEG-8;
- g. about 10% urea; and
- h. about 5% salicylic acid.